

USAREUR/7A OPTEMPO and PERSTEMPO Study

In-Progress Report (IPR 6)

Special Topic: The Influence of Leadership at the Local Level for Improving Soldier and Unit Readiness in a High OPTEMPO Environment

Prepared by the U.S. Army Medical Research Unit-Europe Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Heidelberg, Germany

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To address the diverse measures of OPTEMPO and identify the variables that provide evidence for the OPTEMPO-Readiness Link.

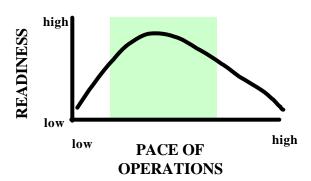


- OPTEMPO Readiness Model
- Research Design
- Unit Locations
- The OPTEMPO Environment
- Operationalizing the OPTEMPO Model
- Categories of Measures
- Stressor-Strain Model Applied to OPTEMPO
- Workload and Family Strain
- Training and Family Strain
- Deployments and Family Strain
- Training and Unit Readiness
- Information Flow as Moderator
- Meaningful Tasks as Moderator
- Moderating the Impact of Military Stressors
- Conclusions
- Point of Contact



OPTEMPO Readiness Model





• The model predicts that pace of operations affects optimal soldier and unit performance. When the pace is either very high or very low soldier and unit readiness decline.

Deployments

- Peacekeeping

• The model consists of three major components: military deployments, training exercises, and garrison duties.

- Humanitarian - Combat Training - Exercises - Field exercises - Schools - Temporary

Garrison

- Rear detachment
- Garrison support

Duty (TDY)



Research Design

Units - Assessment involves 10 companies, both divisional and non-divisional units. There were two units each from:

- 1st AD
- 1st ID
- V Corps
- 21st Theater Support Command
- Southern European Task Force

Longitudinal - The same 10 companies are followed over a 2-year period (JUN 1999-JUN 2001). The goal is to assess each company in garrison, during training, and during deployment.

Data Sources: Three types of data are collected quarterly (N=686 to 768) Surveys – Designed for all three environments
Interviews – Focus groups, leaders, and career intentions
Unit Outcome Measures – Data already collected by units



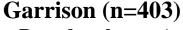
Unit Locations

• The 10 units in this study are located throughout USAREUR.

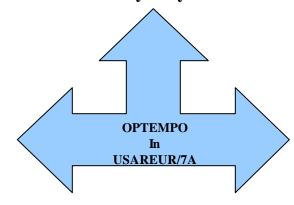




The OPTEMPO Environment



- Rear detachment (n=14)
- Germany/Italy



Deployments (n=123)

- Saudi Arabia
- Kosovo

- Training (n=146)
- Grafenwoehr
- Hohenfels
- Survey and unit outcome measure data were collected from 686 soldiers in 10 companies.
- A total of 209 enlisted soldiers and leaders were interviewed.
 - 40 Leader Interviews
 - 31 Career Decision Interviews
 - 23 Focus Groups involving 138 soldiers



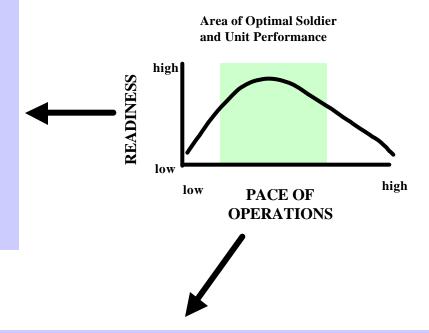
Operationalizing the OPTEMPO Model

Soldier Readiness:

"The state of being prepared mentally, physically and spiritually for some experience or action."

Examples include:

- Military Readiness
- Physical and Mental Health
- Family Readiness



OPTEMPO:

"The rate of military actions or missions."

Examples include:

- Daily Work Load
- Deployment
- Training



Categories of Measures

MILITARY READINESS

- Combat Readiness
- Operational Readiness
- Unit Cohesion
- Leadership (Vertical Cohesion)
- General Leadership Quality
- Morale
- Soldier Pride
- Mission Readiness
- Awards
- ✓ Promotions
- ✓ Driving Offenses
- ✓ Safety Performance
- ✓ Gunnery Scores
- ✓ Range Scores
- ✓ UCMJ
- ✓ AWOLS

TEMPO MEASURES

- **Deployments**
- **Work Hours**
- **Training Days**
- Days on Leave/Pass
- Days on TDY

MEDICAL READINESS

Wellness Behaviors

- Cigarettes
- Alcohol
- Caffeine
- Sleep
- Physical Exercise
- ✓ Urinalysis
- ✓ Accidents

Well-Being

- Well-Being
- Depression
- **Physical Symptoms**
- ✓ APFT Scores
- ✓ Profiles
- Sick Call Rates
- ✓ Suicides

JOB ATTITUDES

- Job Satisfaction
- Recognition
- Challenge
- Time Commitment
- Work Intensity - Goal Acceptance
- Involvement/
 - Engagement
- Job Control
- Work Overload
- Task Significance

SOLDIER & FAMILY ISSUES Career Issues

- Career Decision
- Promotional Opportunity
- Re-enlist Bonus
- ✓ Retention Statistics
- ✓ Indebtedness

Family Issues

- Work/Family Conflict
- Family/Work Conflict
- ✓ Family Abuse

NOTE: ✓ indicates unit objective measure.



Stressor-Strain Model Applied to OPTEMPO

Stressors

OPTEMPO MEASURES

- Work Hours
- Times Deployed
- Training Days

Definitions

Stressor – a stimulus or factor that causes a change in bodily or mental condition.

Strain –physical or mental tension that results from exposure to a stressor.

Moderator – anything that lessens the intensity or severity of the impact of a stressor.

Strains

MILITARY READINESS

- Combat Readiness
- Operational Readiness
- Cohesion
- Leadership

FAMILY ISSUES

Work-Family Conflict

JOB ATTITUDES

Job Satisfaction

Moderators

LEADER BEHAVIORS

- Meaningful Tasks
- Information Flow

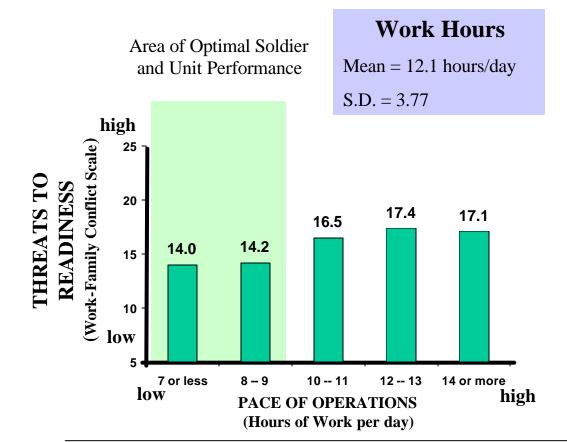
Types of Moderators

- Soldier Behaviors
- Leader Behaviors
- Organizational Policies



Workload and Family Strain

• Regression results indicated that number of hours worked per day was predictive of work-family conflict scores (Beta = .19, t=4.72, p<.001).



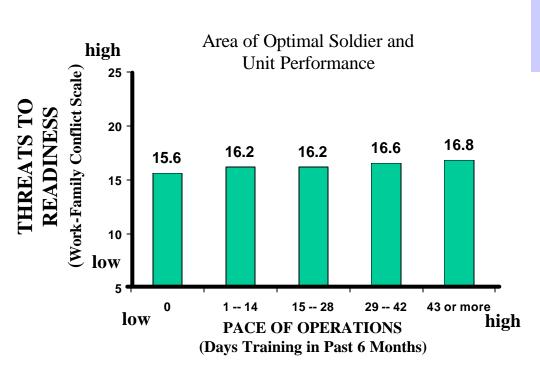
Family Strain

- ightharpoonup "The demands of my work interfere with my home and family life."
- ➤ "The amount of time my job takes up makes it difficult to fulfill family responsibilities."
- ➤ "Things I want to do at home do not get done because of the demands my job puts on me."
- ➤ "My job produces strain that makes it difficult to fulfill family duties."
- ➤ "Due to work-related duties, I have to make changes to my plans for family activities."
- Cronbach $\alpha = 0.94$.



Training and Family Strain

• Regression results indicated that training days was not predictive of work-family conflict scores (Beta = .064, t=1.61, n.s.).



Training Days

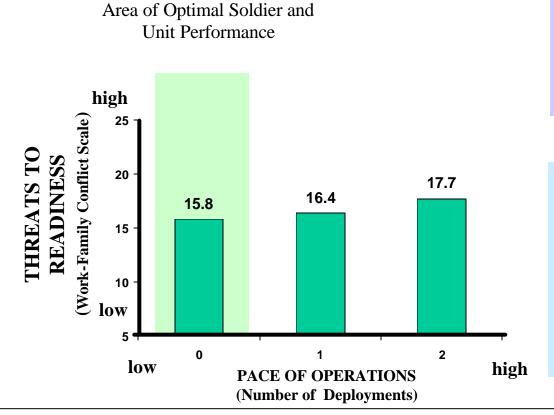
Mean = 30.8 days/6 months S.D. = 31.9

During the training exercise "soldiers feel like their work is contributing to the unit's mission." Leader, training exercises



Deployments and Family Strain

• Regression results indicated that number of deployments was predictive of work-family conflict scores (Beta = .11, t=2.41, p<.05).



Times Deployed

Mean = 1.1

S.D. = 2.2

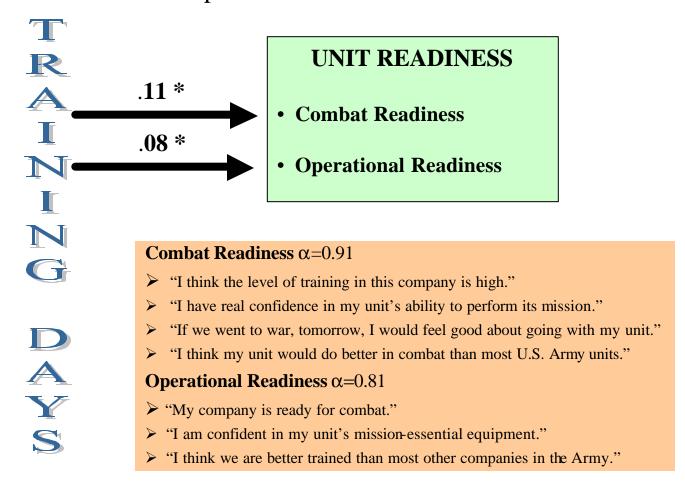
"People just see this as a never ending giving trip. You are always being asked to give a little more, give a little more, and you are never given anything back."

Leader, deployed



Training and Unit Readiness (1 of 2)

• The number of days training was only related to soldiers' ratings of their unit's combat and operational readiness.





Training and Unit Readiness (2 of 2)

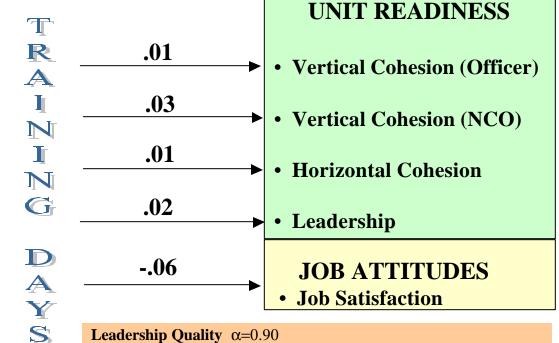
• The number of days training was not related to soldiers' ratings of job satisfaction, cohesion or leadership.

Vertical Cohesion Two vertical cohesion scales for the officer and NCO had a α =0.90 and α =0.92, respectively.

- ➤ "The officers/NCOs in my unit establish clear work objectives."
- ➤ "The officers/NCOs in my unit are interested in my personal welfare."
- > "The officers/NCOs in my unit delegate work effectively."
- The officers/NCOs in my unit let soldiers know when they have done a good job."
- The officers/NCOs in my unit avoid micromanaging soldiers' work.'
- > "The officers/NCOs in my unit are interested in what I think and how I feel about things.

Horizontal Cohesion α =0.91

- > "The members of my unit are cooperative with each other."
- > "The members of my unit know that they can depend on each other."
- > "The members of my unit stand up for each other."



Leadership Quality α =0.90

- > "The leaders in this company would lead well in combat."
- > "I am impressed by the quality of leadership in this company."
- > "My chain-of-command works well."

Job Satisfaction α =0.91

- > "I am very satisfied with my job in the Army."
- > "I like my job in the Army."
- > "I am satisfied with the kind of work I do on my job."



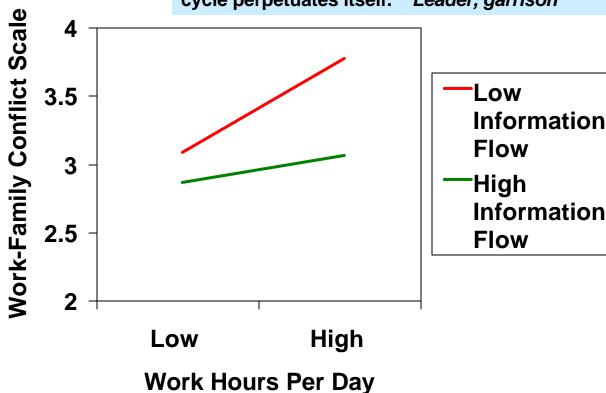
Information Flow as Moderator

• Regression results indicated that the impact of work hours on work-family conflict was moderated by information flow $[R^2 = .11; F(3, 225) = 10.36, p<.0001.*]$

"Everything seems like it is a last minute suspense. They [the suspenses] are so stacked up that they [leaders and soldiers] can't adequately prepare for most things. When they are putting out fires like this, planning suffers for the next event and the cycle perpetuates itself." Leader, garrison

Information Flow

- ➤ "I receive up-to-date information concerning the unit's mission."
- ➤ "I receive up-to-date information on unit decisions that concerns soldiers."
- ➤ "I am notified of potential missions."
- > "I can tell leaders when tasks are too demanding."
- > "I can tell leaders when the unit has been given too many tasks."

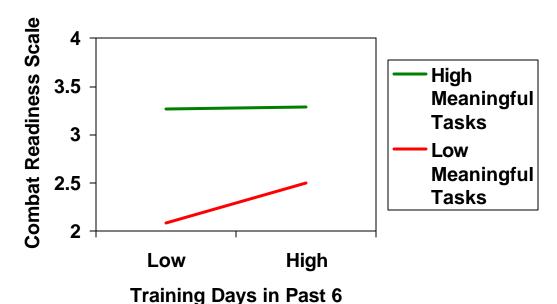


*Interaction terms significant at p < .10



Meaningful Tasks as Moderator

• Regression results indicated that the impact of the number of training days on combat readiness was moderated by meaningful tasks $[R^2 = .28; F(3, 389) = 50.95, p < .0001.*]$



Months

Meaningful Tasks

- ➤ "I am satisfied with how much I work in my primary/secondary MOS."
- ➤ "I complete meaningful tasks."
- ➤ "I receive relevant training."
- ➤ "I get unit support for keeping current in my MOS skills."
- ➤ "I participate in training exercises that prepare the unit for its mission."

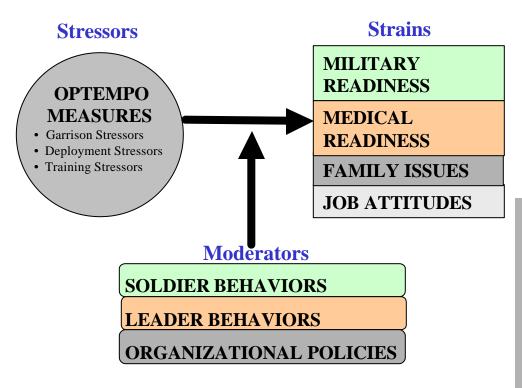
"Here I get to focus on my primary duty and my morale is pretty high when I get to do that....when I get home I would say my morale is lower back in garrison, because I am saturated with all the other crap I have to do." *Enlisted soldier, training environment*

^{*}Interaction terms significant at p<.10



Moderating the Impact of Military Stressors

- Soldier behaviors, leader behaviors and organizational policies matter.
- We will continue to identify those moderators that affect the impact of OPTEMPO stressors.



Examples of Moderators

SOLDIER BEHAVIORS

- Coping Style
- Cohesion

LEADER BEHAVIORS

- Meaningful Tasks
- Information Flow
- Predictability

ORGANIZATIONAL POLICIES

- BN Level (e.g. SGTs Time)
- USAREUR (e.g. Debriefing, Family Time)
- DA (e.g. Rotation)
- Government (e.g. Deployment, K+90)



- Leaders at the local level do engage in behaviors that attenuate the effects of high OPTEMPO.
- Meaningful tasks and good information flow result in less strain on families and units under conditions of high OPTEMPO.
- Not all OPTEMPO stressors have the same impact on soldiers and families. These effects can be both positive and negative.
- OPTEMPO may lead to increased soldier readiness but this comes at a cost in terms of family readiness. However, there are things that leaders can do.
- The OPTEMPO Readiness model provides useful definitions for identifying key relationships.
- The OPTEMPO Readiness model is being expanded to include moderating variables at the soldier, leader and organizational level.



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Soldier OPTEMPO Survey

U.S. Army Medical Research Unit-Europe, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command

Privacy Act/Informed Consent Information

ver: 29 Nov 1999

OPTEMPO Survey

- 1) Authority: 10 U.S.C. Sections 136 and 5 U.S.C. 552a; Executive Order 9397
 2) Purpose: USAMRU-E/WRAIR is conducting a study of soldiers' responses to OPTEMPO and PERSTEMPO.
- 3) Uses: I understand the purpose of this survey is to develop information to benefit soldiers and units, and that I may not directly benefit from this survey.
- 4) Disclosure: Disclosure of your Social Security Number is voluntary. I consent to the use of my answers by staff of the U.S. Army Medical Research-Europe, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (USAMRU-E/WRAIR), to compile statistics of group data.

I understand my name or any other data from which I could be recognized will not be available to anyone beyond the professional staff conducting the study. I understand I have the right to withdraw my consent to participate in the study at any time.

I understand USAMRU-E/WRAIR may access other military records identified by, or filed under, my social security number in conjunction with this survey.

RESULTS ARE CONFIDENTIAL! **Instructions:** - Use a #2 pencil - Mark your answer by filling in the bubble completely like this: **SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:** YOUR AGE: TODAY'S DATE: DAY YEAR MONTH $0\bigcirc 0$ JAN 2000 2001 **FEB** 3 3 (MAR 2 2002 2 APR 2003 **MAY** JUN JUL **AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC** Number of GENDER: **CURRENT MARITAL STATUS:** Indicate **Highest ETHNICITY:** children living Level of Education at home; Single (Never Married) Female obtained: African-Am/Black Married Male Asian 1 Separated Some High School Hispanic 2 Divorced High School White 3 Widowed Diploma/ GED Other 4 Some College 5 Bachelor's Degree 6 or more Graduate Degree WHAT IS YOUR MOS? **COMPONENT: RANK: YOUR UNIT:** (Answer in 3 digits only. Example: a Squad: Army "67B would bubble in "6," "7," and "B.") Navy K 0 0 Platoon: Air Force O L В 1 1 (Marines 2 M C Company: N D STATUS: 4 O Ε Battalion: Active 5 P (F Reserves 6 Q Guard R (7 H Other: O Civilian 8 S

Other?

Do you have a family member enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)? Yes No Is your spouse in the military? Yes No Not Married	Example: I	f you've been in 9 uld write in and	How man have you the past	u avera	aged per	vork r day in	On average, hours did y	the past week. how many
How many days have yo been on a training exercing the past 6 months? Example: If it is 19, should write and bubble "0" and then "1," and "10" and then "10" and	in the passing many days you performed work?	t week, how s have you military related	and/c	or passe n in the hs?	days of less have ge past 12	you	How many and/or passe lost in the pmonths?	days of leave es have you past 12 0 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 9
TDY in the past 6 months? slee	many hours of p have you aged per night e past week? 0 0 1 0 1 0 2 0 3 4 0 5 6 6 7 0 8 9 9	Vietnam, Persia Grenada, Panar Somalia) Yes No C Have you ever s on a peacekeep humanitarian mission?	an Gulf, ma, erved ing or	total in the (e.g. Bost Mac	, have y Balka Kosovo nia, Croa	months in ou served in Region o, Albania, atia, Hungary?	In total, hov deploymen completed to than 30 day training exe unaccompany.	ts have you hat lasted more s? (not including reises or

Please use the following scale to tell us how much you agree or disag with the statements below:	Strongly Strongly Strongly Strongly
 I am proud to be in the U.S. Army I am an important part of my company What I do in the Army is worthwhile My company is ready for combat I am confident in my unit's mission-essential equipment I think we are better trained than most other companies in the Arm I think the level of training in this company is high I have real confidence in my unit's ability to perform its mission If we went to war tomorrow, I would feel good about going with I think my unit would do a better job in combat than most U.S. Ar The members of my unit are cooperative with each other The members of my unit stand up for each other The officers in my unit establish clear work objectives The officers in my unit delegate work effectively The officers in my unit let soldiers know when they have done a g The officers in my unit are interested in what I think and how I fee The NCOs in my unit are interested in my personal welfare The NCOs in my unit are interested in my personal welfare The NCOs in my unit are interested in what I think and how I fee The NCOs in my unit are interested in what I think and how I feel The NCOs in my unit are interested in what I think and how I feel The NCOs in my unit are interested in what I think and how I feel The leaders in this company would lead well in combat I am impressed by the quality of leadership in this company My chain-of-command works well 	my unit my units r good job el about things od job od job
In your opinion, what is the ideal length of time in months that a deployment should last?	In your opinion, what is the ideal number of deployments that a soldier should go on over a 3 year period?
	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 or more O O O O O O
Which best describes your current active-duty Army career intentio 1. Definitely stay in until retirement (or longer) 2. Probably stay in until retirement 3. Definitely stay in beyond my present obligation, but not necess 4. Undecided about whether to stay after completion of my curre 5. Probably leave upon completion of my current obligation 6. Definitely leave upon completion of my current obligation	arily until retirement
When you leave active duty, do you plan on serving in the Reserves of Yes Undecided No	or National Guard? Not Applicable

Please rate the following:	Soy Low North High Story High
 Your personal morale Morale in your unit Cohesion in your unit Quality of life in your unit Mission readiness of your unit Level of training in your unit Standards of discipline in your unit Your level of burnout Your level of motivation Your level of drive 	
How many days during the past week have you had each of the following feelings or experiences?	Odays law 2days days days bays bays
 Felt you couldn't get going Felt sad Had trouble getting to sleep or staying asleep Felt everything was an effort Felt lonely Felt you couldn't shake the blues Trouble keeping your mind on what you were doing 	
Have you recently:	TA REAL PROPERTY OF THE PARTY O
 been able to concentrate on whatever you're doing? lost much sleep over worry? felt that you are playing a useful part in things? felt capable of making decisions about things? felt constantly under strain? felt that you couldn't overcome your difficulties? been able to enjoy your normal day-to-day activities? been feeling unhappy and depressed? been losing confidence in yourself? been thinking of yourself as a worthless person? been feeling reasonably happy, all things considered? 	

Please indicate how ofte symptoms over the past n		nced the fol	lowing physica	al health	NO.	ALITH	OFTEN A	W OF THE	<i>V</i>
 Head colds Sinus troubles Constipation Headaches Back problems Allergies Skin rash Cough Chills/Fever Diarrhea Aching joints and bones Stomach intestinal upset Eye/ear/nose problems Hoarseness Dizziness Muscle aches or cramps Weight loss/gain Urinary infections Sweaty/wet/clammy hands Muscle twitching/trembling Rapid heartbeat (not exercising) Shortness of breath (not exercising) WOMEN ONLY: menstrual difficulties Other (please write in): 					000000000000000000000000000000000000000	000000000000000000000000000000000000000		000000000000000000000000000000000000000	
you missed due to illness in seen by a		times have you health care prot 30 days?	ou been ovider	ma did ex	ring the past 7 days, how ny days you do physical ercise for 30 minutes or ore?				
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During the past week, what is the average number of times per day you used tobacco (i.e. cigarettes smoked, cigars smoked, smokeless tobacco used)?	Which tobac products, if a you used this Mark all that	ny, have week?	During the pa is the average caffeine you day? (Count to cups of coffee with caffeine)	amount of have had p the number e, tea, or so	er y	Ouring the many alcoword had? of wine of a shot of	o holic d i (1 drink r 1 bottle	rinks 1 c = 1 gl	nave ass
0 0 1 0 10 2 0 20 3 0 30 4 0 4 0 5 0 50 6 0 60 7 0 70 8 0 80 9 9	cigarettes cigars smokeless to other (specify		0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9			0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9) (1) (2) (3) (4) (4) (5) (6) (6) (6) (6) (6) (6) (6) (6) (6) (6		

Please use the following scale to tell us how much you agree or disagree with the statements below.	Strongely Rentral Representations of the Strongely Rentral Rentral Representations of the Strongely Rentral Ren
1. I rarely feel my work is taken for granted. 2. My superiors generally appreciate the way I do my job. 3. The organization recognizes the significance of the contributions I make. 4. My job is very challenging. 5. It takes all my resources to achieve my work objectives. 6. Other people know me by the long hours I keep. 7. The soldiers in my unit think that what's expected of us is clear. 8. The soldiers in my unit think that what's expected of us is reasonable. 9. I work at my full capacity in all of my job duties. 10. I strive as hard as I can to be successful in my work. 11. When I work, I really exert myself to the fullest. 12. I feel responsible for my job performance. 13. I am committed to my job. 14. How well I do in my job matters a great deal to me. 15. How I do in my job influences how I feel. 16. I have personal control over my job performance. 17. Once I am given instructions, I am pretty much left alone to do my job. 18. I am allowed to do my job without constant supervision from others. 19. I am very satisfied with my job in the Army. 20. I like my job in the Army. 21. I am satisfied with the kind of work I do on my job. 22. I have so much work to do that I cannot do everything well. 23. I never seem to have enough time to get everything done. 24. My job leaves me with little time to get things done. 25. I feel that what I am doing is important for accomplishing my unit's mission. 26. I am making a real contribution to accomplishing my unit's mission. 27. What I do helps accomplish my unit's mission.	
Please rate how much you agree or disagree with the following:	THE REAL PROPERTY OF THE PROPE
 The demands of my work interfere with my home and family life. The amount of time my job takes up makes it difficult to fulfill family responsibilities. Things I want to do at home do not get done because of the demands my job on me. My job produces strain that makes it difficult to fulfill family duties. Due to work-related duties, I have to make changes to my plans for family activities. The demands of my family or spouse/partner interfere with work-related activities. I have to put off doing things at work because of demands on my time at home. Things I want to do at work do not get done because of the demands of my family or spouse/partner. My home life interferes with my responsibilities at work such as getting to work on time, accomplishing daily tasks, and working overtime. Family-related strain interferes with my ability to perform job-related duties. 	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Do you have ar If yes, please w	ny comments?	Yes O	No O	
i yes, piedse w	me mem m me	space provide	ca below.	
		_		

Thank You



Soldier OPTEMPO Survey





Privacy Act/Informed Consent Information

1) Authority: 10 U.S.C. Sections 136 and 5 U.S.C. 552a; Executive Order 9397

ver: 5 July 2000 OPTEMPO Survey G2

2) Disclosure: I consent to the use of my answers by staff of the U.S. Army Medical Research-Europe, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (USAMRU-E/WRAIR), to compile statistics of group data.

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- 4) Uses: I understand the purpose of this survey is to develop information to benefit soldiers and units, and that I may not directly benefit from this survey.

Social Security Number	Date	Signature
Instructions : - Use a #2 pencil - Mark your answer by filling	RESULTS ARE Cog in the bubble completely like this	
SOCIAL SECURITE 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Y NUMBER: 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	TODAY'S DATE: MONTH DAY YEAR JAN 0 0 0 2000 PEB 1 1 2001 PEB 2002 PEB 2002 PEB 2003 PEB 2004 PEB 200
Throughout your military career , how many months have you spent on a deployment (not including training exercises)?	How many months been in your current 0 0 0 1 1 1 2 2 2 3 3 3 4 4 4 5 5 5 6 6 6 7 7 7 8 8 8 9 9 9	How often do you work in your primary or secondary MOS? Never Seldom Sometimes Often Always

Please rate how much you agree or disagree with the following: 1. Garrison duties have made my work more interesting. 2. Garrison duties have put a big strain on my family. 3. Garrison duties have hurt the stability of my marriage. 4. There are too many "hey you" duties in garrison. 5. The unit conducts Sergeant's Time training every week. 6. I receive relevant training during Sergeant's Time. Thinking about garrison life, rate how often the following occur: 1. I am satisfied with how much I work in my primary/secondary MOS. 2. I complete meaningful tasks. 3. I receive relevant training. 4 I get unit support for keeping current in my MOS skills. 5. I participate in training exercises that prepares the unit for its mission. 6. I receive up-to-date information concerning the unit's mission. 7. I receive up-to-date information on unit decisions that concern soldiers. 8. I am notified of potential missions. 9. I can tell leaders when tasks are too demanding. 10. I can tell leaders when the unit has been given too many tasks. 11. I know what duty I will be doing day to day. 12. I have a predictable daily work schedule.

13. I have a predictable mission schedule.

14. I can count on being able to take my requested leave time.15. I am able to plan a schedule out for at least six months.

People deal with stress in different ways. How often do you use the following when you feel stressed?	Schon	Sometimes	Offer	Amays		\
 Change what is causing the stress Feel challenged Look for information about possible choices Feel responsible for the outcome Decide what needs to be done Become apathetic or just don't care 		00000				
7. Drink more alcohol 8. Withdraw physically from the situation 9. Eat more 10. Just try to ignore it 11. Daydream 12. Complain to others	00000	000000	000000	000000	000000	
 13. Avoid thinking about the problem 14. Turn to my religious beliefs 15. Turn to prayer or spiritual thoughts 16. Seek religious guidance 17. Do physical exercise 18. Smoke cigarettes 		000000	000000		00000	
Please answer the following questions using the scale provided:	EHI (ARAII OH	A W	West,		
Please answer the following questions using the scale provided: 1. How often do people in your unit get into arguments with each other at work? 2. How often do people in your unit yell at each other at work? 3. How often are people in your unit rude to each other at work? 4. How often do people in your unit do bad things to each other at work?	SAM 0000	OR O	0000	0000	0000	
1. How often do people in your unit get into arguments with each other at work? 2. How often do people in your unit yell at each other at work? 3. How often are people in your unit rude to each other at work?	0000	OR OCCUPANT	0000	0000	0000	